

CLAIMS

1. A fitting for a harness, the fitting comprising: a first part secured to or securable to a harness, a second part connectable to a tether, and a mechanism to releasably interconnect the first and second parts, one of said parts having a plurality of locking apertures or recesses and said mechanism comprising: a plurality of locking members each having a rounded or tapered locking part sized to be received within a respective said locking aperture or recess; and a locking element moveable between a locking position and a release position, the locking element being configured to urge each locking member into a position in which its locking part is received within a respective said locking aperture or recess when in said locking position but to allow each locking member to move out of said respective locking aperture or recess when in said release position.
2. A fitting according to claim 1, wherein each said locking member is constrained for linear movement towards and away from each respective locking aperture or recess.
3. A fitting according to claim 1, wherein said locking element is biased towards said locking position.
4. A fitting according to claim 3, wherein said locking element is biased by a spring.
5. A fitting according to claim 1, wherein each said locking aperture or recess defines a respective peripheral seat, and the rounded or tapered locking part of each said locking member is sized to engage a respective said seat when urged into said respective locking aperture or recess but not to pass completely through said seat.

6. A fitting according to claim 5, wherein each said peripheral seat is substantially circular.
7. A fitting according to claim 1, wherein each said locking member is a ball.
8. A fitting according to claim 1, wherein each locking member is provided in a linear channel to restrict the locking member to substantially linear movement.
9. A fitting according to claim 8, wherein said locking element is arranged for movement between said locked and release positions along an axis substantially perpendicular to the axis of each said channel.
10. A fitting according to claim 9, wherein said locking element has a respective bearing surface to bear against each said locking member when the locking element is in said locking position, and a respective recess to receive each said locking member when the locking element is in said release position.
11. A fitting according to claim 1, wherein said locking apertures or recesses are provided in said second part, and said locking members and said locking element are provided on said first part.
12. A fitting according to claim 5, wherein said locking apertures or recesses are provided in said second part, and said locking members and said locking element are provided on said first part, and wherein each said locking member is held captive between said locking element and a respective retaining aperture formed in said first part, each said retaining aperture being sized to

prevent the respective locking member from passing completely therethrough, whilst allowing the respective locking member to project sufficiently therethrough to engage a respective seat defined on the second part.

13. A fitting according to claim 6, wherein said locking apertures or recesses are provided in said second part, and said locking members and said locking element are provided on said first part, and wherein each said locking member is held captive between said locking element and a respective retaining aperture formed in said first part, each said retaining aperture being sized to prevent the respective locking member from passing completely therethrough, whilst allowing the respective locking member to project sufficiently therethrough to engage a respective seat defined on the second part, and wherein each said retaining aperture is substantially circular and has a smaller diameter than each said seat.

14. A fitting according to claim 1, wherein said second part has a hook for connection to said tether.

15. A fitting according to claim 1, wherein said second part has a loop for connection to said tether.

16. A fitting according to claim 1 having an actuator button configured to urge said locking element towards said release position when pressed.

17. A fitting according to claim 16, wherein said actuator button is formed as part of said locking element.

18. A fitting according to claim 16, comprising a guard arrangement configured to extend at least partly around said actuator button to prevent the button from being accidentally pressed.
19. A fitting according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of locking apertures or recesses comprise at least one pair of opposed locking apertures or recesses.
20. A fitting according to claim 19 comprising a plurality of said pairs of locking apertures or recesses and a plurality of respective pairs of locking members.
21. A fitting according to claim 19, wherein the locking element is arranged to urge the locking parts of the or each said pair of locking members apart from one another into said respective locking apertures or recesses.
22. A fitting according to claim 1, wherein each said locking aperture or recess is provided at a position adjacent at least one other said locking aperture or recess.
23. A fitting according to claim 22, wherein said locking apertures or recesses are all aligned with one another.
24. A fitting according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of locking apertures are provided through a plate carried by said second part.

25. A fitting according to claim 1, wherein the locking element is arranged to urge at least two of said locking members towards one another in order that their locking parts become received within respective said locking apertures or recesses.
26. A fitting according to claim 25, wherein three locking apertures or recesses are provided, and three locking members are provided, two of said locking members being arranged to move in the same direction as one another towards respective locking apertures or recesses.
27. A fitting according to claim 1, wherein the locking element is arranged to urge at least two of said locking members in the same direction as one another in order that their locking parts become received within respective said locking apertures or recesses.
28. A harness provided with a fitting according to claim 1.